

EXBOURNE WITH JACOBSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting held on May 28th 2014 at Exbourne Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Those present were Cllrs Luxton (Chairman), Weeks, Blakeman, Williams and Glanville.

Trevor Hill (Borough Councillor for the Exbourne Ward) was also present.

There were no members of the public present.

Apologies: Cllr James McInnes (County Councillor for Hatherleigh and Chagford ward) had also sent his apologies as he was attending another meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Weeks and seconded by Cllr Williams that the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on May 29th 2014, be signed. The Chairman signed the minutes.

The chairman delivered his report. He began by thanking the Finance Working Group, who have managed another year without any increase to the precept. Each year it becomes more difficult, but with keen housekeeping the finances remain under control and continue to provide contingency cover. Thanks were expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Egan for the generous provision of the community shelter at Little Ellicroft Meadow, which is now becoming an attraction to the area..

Cllr Rose Williams has been a sound addition to the council – a real asset to the community.

The chairman expressed regret that Ian Brooker had chosen to step down as P3 Co-ordinator this year, but expressed thanks to him for all his hard work over the years and wished him well for the future. Thanks were expressed to Tim Laws and Stephen Atfield who have jointly taken on the role and the council looks forward to working with them.

Planning, as ever, continues to feature heavily in the workload. Not all final results may be to the satisfaction of the council, but where appropriate strong challenges have been made with some effect. The council continues to receive strong support from the Ward Councillor, Trevor Hill, his attendance at meetings is greatly appreciated. Thanks were also expressed to County Councillor James McInnes, who is readily available when requested. A big thank you was expressed to them both for their advice and backing.

A big thank you was also expressed to the Internal Auditor, Fiona Rook, who closely monitors the finances of the council and ensures adherence to Financial regulations.

The chairman concluded by expressing his thanks to the clerk and councillors.

Cllr Hill delivered his report as Borough Councillor of Exbourne Ward:

Cllr Hill thanked the chairman for his kind words. He stated he did not have much to report on. There have been many challenges throughout the year and not all of them have been resolved satisfactorily, but he wished to express his thanks to the parish council for their support throughout the year.

Cllr McInnes, County Councillor for Hatherleigh and Chagford Ward, had submitted his report by email and this was read out to the meeting:

Over the last four years DCC has had to take £100 million out of the budget due to a reduction in Central Government Funding.

Over the next four years DCC will need to find £110 million of additional savings. This is going to be painful and so far consultations have taken place in Heritage Service, Meals Service, Adult Social Care Day Service, Residential Care Service, Youth Service, Children's Service and Library Services.

HIGHWAYS – the recent wet winter has seen the roads suffer. He encouraged people to report potholes. DCC has received an additional £7 million for potholes from the government. The re-surfacing of the A3072 has finally been carried out.

He finds himself in the DCC cabinet with responsibility for Children Schools and Skills.

He is a member of the Dartmoor National Park Authority and has been Development Management Chairman for the past year.

He is also a member of West Devon HATOC and County Committee. He reminded the council that he does have a small budget for community projects. He hoped that the speeding signs have made a difference.

Parishioners open session:

There were no members of the public present. The meeting concluded at 7.40 p.m.